

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented): A process for producing solubilized keratin, which comprises:

hydrolyzing in an alkali solution a keratin raw material having a water content ranging from 20 to 80% by weight,

neutralizing the hydrolyzate liquid containing solublized keratin, and  
extracting a solubilized keratin from the supernatant.

2. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the keratin raw material is cleaned with water, an organic solvent and/or a detergent prior to hydrolyzing it.

3. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein an alkali concentration is 0.1 to 0.5 mol/L.

4. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the hydrolyzing occurs for 0.1 to 16 hours at a temperature ranging from 80 to 120°C.

5. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1 comprising neutralizing the keratin raw material with peroxide.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the keratin raw material is feathers.

8. (Currently Amended): A solubilized feather keratin having an average molecular weight of 8,000 to 13,000 Da (as determined by a gel filtration method) and manufactured by the process according to claim 1 using feathers as keratin raw material.

9. (Currently Amended): A composition comprising:  
the solubilized keratin manufactured from feathers by the process according to claim  
1 and  
at least one other cosmetic ingredient,  
wherein said composition is in a form suitable for use as a cosmetic.

10. (Previously Presented): A process for producing solubilized keratin, comprising:  
hydrolyzing in an alkali solution a keratin raw material having a water content  
ranging from 20 to 80% by weight,  
removing undissolved matter and recovering a liquid hydrolyzate containing  
dissolved keratin,  
neutralizing the liquid hydrolyzate, and  
recovering keratin from the neutralized liquid hydrolyzate.

11. (Previously Presented): The process of claim 10, wherein said keratin raw  
material comprises feathers.

12. (Previously Presented): The process of claim 10, wherein said alkali solution has  
an alkali concentration ranging from 0.1 to 0.5 mol/L.

13. (Previously Presented): The process of claim 10, wherein hydrolyzing occurs for  
0.1 to 16 hours at a temperature ranging from 80 to 120°C.

14. (Currently Amended): The process of claim 10, ~~further~~ comprising neutralizing  
the hydrolyzed keratin raw material with an acid and/or peroxide.

15. (Currently Amended): The process of claim 10, ~~further~~ comprising neutralizing  
the hydrolyzed keratin raw material with acid.

16. (Currently Amended): The process of claim 10, ~~further~~ comprising neutralizing the hydrolyzed keratin raw material with peroxide.

17. (Previously Presented): The process of claim 10, further comprising desalinating the neutralized keratin solution.

18. (Previously Presented): The process of claim 10, wherein the keratin raw material is a recycled or waste feather material.

19. (Currently Amended): A solubilized keratin ~~produced by the process of claim 10~~ which is colorless and odorless which has been produced from feathers by the process of claim 10.

20. (New): A process for producing a keratin hydrolysate, which comprises:  
providing hydrated feathers, as a keratin raw material, having a hydrous state where the feathers contain 20% to 80% water content,  
hydrolysing the hydrated feathers in an alkali solution produce a hydrolysate liquid.

21. (New): The process of claim 20, further comprising:  
neutralizing the hydrolysate liquid, and  
extracting a soluble keratin from the neutralized hydrolysate liquid.

22. (New): The process of claim 20, wherein said keratin hydrolysate has an average molecular weight ranging from 8,000 to 13,000 Da (as determined by a gel filtration method).

23. (New): The process of claim 20, further comprising producing the hydrated feathers by immersing feathers in water, and then dehydrating the feathers until they reach a hydrous state where the feathers contain 20% to 80% water.

24. (New): The process of claim 20, wherein the alkali solution contains 0.1 to 0.8 mol/L of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, calcium hydroxide, or ammonia.

25 (New): The process of claim 20, further comprising neutralizing the hydrolysate liquid with acid and/or peroxide.